

# A REPRESENTATION

of the present Affairs and Interests of the most considerable parts of

## EUROPE,

*more especially of those of the*

## NETHERLANDS:

As they now stand, in the beginning of the year 1677.

*Laid open in a Letter from Holland.*

By a Lover of Truth and Peace.



Anno Dom. 1677.





Upon some serious Considerations lately had by us both touching the great Confusions and Calamities of sundry parts of Europe, & particularly of the *Netherlands*, you were pleased to put such a value upon my judgement (beyond it's deserts) as to ask my opinion of the source & progress of

those Evills, together with my Advice concerning such Remedies as might restore the Lands to their former rest, and the Inhabitants to their ancient Felicity and safety.

sr, This was not the work of One day, nor is it now possible in one Letter to comprehend so ample a Relation, or discussion of those things wherein so many, so grand, and so various circumstances occur; Neither have I now the leisure to reduce them into such a distinct Method as you might expect. But according to the severall discourses I daily am accosted with, & the observations I have made of persons and passages, I shall give you a generall view of our Maladies; the idea whereof may haply somewhat move your compassion, though it cannot have so great an influence upon the affections of your Countreymen, as upon those on this side the water, who have born and are yet likely to bear the heat and burden of a sad and dolefull day: And as for an *Esculapius* to heal these dreadfull wounds, somthing we shall aslay, though rather wish than hope for such an Expedient; unless you in *England*, sensible, that when your Neighbours houses are on fire, apprehending your own cannot long escape, shall be moved to add a helping hand ere it be too late.

Now, sr, for the better answering of your expectation, ere I give you my own Observations, I judge it not amiss to propose to you the severall sentiments of the 2. great Heads of the present contending parties: and sith Our ears are daily filled with the noise of their loud boastings, high pretences and mutuall calumniations, I take the Freedom to exercise your patience with an ac-

count of their own Rhodomantado's; which I cannot better do than by personating One of each Nation.

I shall first introduce the *Frenchman*: who would perswade us to a belief that *his King* is the onely qualified Prince of Christendom to become *Emperour*, not onely of *Europe*, but of the world. And thus you may hear him Flourishing over the encomiums of his King, Countrey and Cause.

„ In the first place (*saiſt the Monsieur*) I say, That my Sovereign Lord and Master, *His moſt Christian Majeftie* is every way qualified for the Sovereign Imperial Dignity and Charge: I shall begin with his *Person*, which no man can deny to be the most graceful of all the Princes on earth: his mind yet more richly adorned with all the graces and transcendent Excellencies, and Endowments which may become a Prince. Had he lived in some days, no doubt, he would have been reckoned among the Gods. He came into the world with a wonder, therefore was he named *Dieu done, Gods gift*: and being so miraculously given beyond all expectation, 't is a sign he came to do some grand work; he being prophecied of by many, as if he were to begin or set up the Fifth Monarchy: and to me this seems evident: for when you hall well weigh what great and glorious things he hath don, in raising the Monarchy of *France* to that degree of height as hath never yet hitherto been known, adding thereto so many great Conquests, and that in very few years, to the astonishment of all the Princes in *Europe*, and the admiration of the *Great Turk*, who, you find, sends an Ambassador to treat his *Christian Majeftie* with the Title of *Emperour*, which never formerly was given to any *King of France*, since *Charle Main's* time; and when you shall truly consider the great power of *my King* at Land and Sea, certainly you must yield him to be the most potent of all the Princes of Christendom: He is able to bring two hundred thousand men to fight, and yet not take three men out of a Parish: for 'tis undeniable, that in *France* alone and it's limits, leaving out *Lorraine, Burgundy, French County and Alſatia*, he hath within the

„ *French Monarchy*, one hundred and thirty three thousand Pa-  
 „ rishes. But, before I speak of his Riches and vast Dominions,  
 „ I ought to mention somthing of the vertues of his mind, which  
 „ are so numerous, that certainly never have so many met toge-  
 „ ther in any Prince in our modern times: he is all *bon Air* and  
 „ courteous beyond expression: and yet in labours, vigilan-  
 „ cie, and hazards, who ever more sedulous? And what Prince  
 „ ever out-did him in distributions of justice and rewards to the  
 „ meritorious? What encouragements doth he give to the Ver-  
 „ tuoso's? What pensions are given to the widows and orphans  
 „ of the brave *English* and other Nations that have serv'd him well?  
 „ Nor can his own Subjects complain of missing their reward  
 „ when they deserve it. And this his glorious Example hath be-  
 „ gotten an imitation in his Subjects: What numbers of brave  
 „ Generalls and skilfull Officers is *France* plentifully furnished  
 „ with? What a disciplined Army is that of the French? none in  
 „ in the world to be compared to them. And if you take notice  
 „ of the Riches of *my King* in the Number of his Subjects, then  
 „ you will grant, he exceeds all *Europe*.

„ *Charle Magne* was of opinion that *France*, for it's situation,  
 „ was the most convenient and commodious Countrey of all  
 „ *Europe* for making the Residential seat for the *Emperour*: and  
 „ *Charle le Magne* had made it so, had not these two considera-  
 „ tions overswayed, *viz.* (1.) That the *German* Princes and their  
 „ Countreys might so have taken the opportunity of returning  
 „ back to their *Heathenism*, to which they were very inclining. (2)  
 „ Sith at the time of his disposall of his possessions amongst his Sons,  
 „ *France* (now so called) was under severall Princes and Poten-  
 „ tates, which *Charle Magne* in justice could not turn out of  
 „ their lawfull rights, as *Languedock*, *Provence*, *Britain*, *Nor-*  
 „ *mandy* and severall other Provinces: But now these, and divers  
 „ more, as *Lorain*, *Alsatia*, *French County*, *Burgundy* and a great  
 „ part of the *Netherlands* are of later years added and laid to the  
 „ *Monarchy of France*. I am of opinion, that if *my King* should

,, joyn with his *Majestie of Great Britain*, they Two might divide  
,, the world between them; the One to be *Emperour at Land*, the  
,, Other at *Sea*: and 'tis both reasonable and naturall it should  
,, be so: for *We* and the *English* are So mixt in bloud, and our con-  
,, sanguinity such that *We* are One People: *The English* have  
,, been severall ages in *France*; as may be seen by the stately Church-  
,, es and other Fabricks they built, whilst in *France*: Then the  
,, *Normans* possessed and governed *England*; as may appear by  
,, the Laws written in the *French* tongue, and yet remaining in  
,, practice to this very day: so that we are an *English-French*, and  
,, they a *French-English*. But if the *King of Great Britain* will not  
,, joyn with nor assist *my King*, yet he must, notwithstanding that,  
,, be *Emperour*; all things tend to it. Is not *Paris* now become  
,, like *Rome* in old time, who gave Laws and taught Manners to  
,, the whole world? As in those days all Nations learned *Latin*,  
,, that thereby they might understand the *Civilities*, *Laws* and *E-  
ducation* of the *Romans*: So now, Do not all Nations learn  
,, *French*? Do not you send all your choice and *Noblest*-born  
,, *Princes*, *Gentry*, and *richest* *MERCHANTS* Sons to our *Academies*  
,, in *Paris*? Do not *We* impose on you all the *Modes* of *France*?  
,, Take but a view of all *Christendom*, and you will find, That  
,, there's not so much as a little *German Prince* but he must have a  
,, *Frenchman* for his *Barber*, *Valet de chambre*, or *Lackey*; and one  
,, of these often makes a *Governour* for the young *Prince*, and  
,, a most Excellent *Privy Councillour*. Somtimes I have known a  
,, *Prince* that hath kept himself undrest six days, expecting with  
,, great impatience his *perwiggs* and *feathers*, and other gallan-  
,, tries out of *France*. Travel into what parts you please where  
,, there is a *Court*, as in *Rome*, and even in *Madrid* itself, there you  
,, shall find every *Prince* and *Gentilman* hath a *Frenchman* to  
,, teach him how to dress himself, yea, and how to eat with  
,, a *bon mein*. Go no farther than to *Amsterdam*, or more espe-  
,, cially to the *Hagh*, where you may observe all to be turn'd perfect  
,, *Monsieurs*: and in *Amsterdam* the old *Hollander* is so changed,  
that

„ that there is scarce such a Creature to be found: there is not a  
 „ rich Merchants daughter there that will admit of a *Bezuea*, much  
 „ less go to Church to be married untill she hath her Modes,  
 „ Curls for her head, her Tower &c. from *France*, or at leſt, buy  
 „ the ſame of a *French Madam*, who, with the help of a *French*  
 „ *Dancing-Maſter*, ſet's Mrs. Brides Locks, teacheth her the Cou-  
 „ rant and Coupé, and then perſwades her, She is the moſt com-  
 „ pleat Madam *ala mode* in the Town; giving as an advise, that  
 „ nothing but a *French Feile de Chambre* can preſerve the Drefs and  
 „ *bon meyn* they have leſt her in. Thus are *We French* the Fashion-  
 „ mongers and School of Manners and good breeding for the  
 „ Universe. Besideſ all this, All *Europe* and Other parts of the  
 „ world are beholden to us for Invention: Our *King* hath esta-  
 „ blished in *Paris* 2 Colledges, One for a Royal Society of *Vir-*  
 „ *tuſo's*, the Other called *Bon Esprit*. In a word, *France* furniſh-  
 „ eth the world with more numbers of Good Writers, Fighters,  
 „ and Men *Ones & bein ajuſte*, than all Christendom beſides.

„ *Gentilmen*, I ſuppoſe you know, I am a Son of the *Church of*  
 „ *Rome*; yet I wiſh from my very heart, that the *Dolphine* were  
 „ crowned King of the *Romans*: For my part, I wiſh that old  
 „ *Holy man* and all the Fops about him were removed to ſome  
 „ other place; and ſo make room for a Brave *Emperour*, ſuch as  
 „ my *King* or the *Dolphine* would make: but if he muſt needs live  
 „ in *Rome*, let him be content to live in *St. John de Lateran*, as in  
 „ old time: Five hundred piftoſ a year is more than any honest  
 „ *Bishop* in the world ought to ſpend, if he live like a true Shep-  
 „ herd, and uſeth onely his *Croſiers Staff*. *Murblew*, Since the  
 „ Bishops traversed the ſword over the *Croſiers Staff* in their  
 „ Arms, the *Churchmen* become Fighters and Executioners of  
 „ Civil Justice; which, to my judgement, is quite contrary to *Sr.*  
 „ *Pauls* words, *Let not a Bishop be a ſtriker*. My Opinion is, That-  
 „ if the thirty five Millions of *Livres* which the *Pope* and his Idle-  
 „ pack or lazy Drones devour, were employed in the maintaining  
 „ of a brave army againſt the *Turk*, it might be better ſpent. You  
 „ ſhall

„ shall see in some few years, if my Master be not Emperour, that  
 „ the Turk will make bold to give his Holiness a Visit from Candia.  
 „ And, on the contrary, if my King be Emperour, you will see  
 „ the Flower-de-Luces placed in the room of the 3. Half-Moons.

„ If Any think I have been too satyrical touching the Pope and  
 „ his Cardinals, and spoken too irreverently of them, sith Some  
 „ of those Bishops of Rome have been good men, as *Sixtus Quintus*  
 „ a Gentleman eminent both for learning and Religion, the like  
 „ whereof may be said of that devout man *Cardinal Bona* lately  
 „ dead, yet living in his highly esteemed works; as also that  
 „ Pope *Alexander the VII.* was a Gentleman &c. Yet for all that,  
 „ Know, that I handle that sort of men very modestly: I could  
 „ blacken the *See of Rome*, in this Discourse, at another rate, if I  
 „ were not a Child of that *Church*. I could tell of severall *Popes*,  
 „ who lived and died *Heathens*; Some of their bodies having been  
 „ taken up and burned, as is for truth received, after their tenents  
 „ were found in their Closets: neither, have I painted out the  
 „ Lives of Some *Cardinals* in my days; those are things so well  
 „ known by them who live among them, that 'tis needless here  
 „ to repeat what's in every vulgar mouth. In short, Let me say  
 „ over again, If the Pope and his Crew, who, posses *Rome*, do  
 „ continue so to rule, and that *Italy* be thus governed, most by  
 „ the *Church*, then, say I, the Turk or any Other Neighbour  
 „ may take the Countrey from them: (Let it be remembred what  
 „ my King did at *Avignion*:) for their Countrey is half depopu-  
 „ lated; which is occasioned by 3. things: *First*, by making  
 „ such vast numbers of *Eunuchs*. *Secondly*, by practising the sin of  
 „ *Sodom* so much as they do: for it is most certainly true, that ma-  
 „ ny thousands of *Italians* perfectly hate the Female Sex. *Lastly*,  
 „ by the innumerable Company of *Monasteries* and *Nunneries*; in  
 „ which may be modestly accounted two hundred thousand  
 „ Nuns; the which, if lawfully employed in generation-work,  
 „ might produce great numbers of usefull Creatures: whereas  
 „ now, on the contrary, both *Monks*, *Friers* and *Nuns* are forced  
 „ to

„ to make use of all their skil and arts to destroy Gods image by  
 „ them made in secret, and all to hide the scandal of being ac-  
 „ counted breakers of the unwarrantable oaths and vows they  
 „ make to observe their Founders Maximes or Rules of their Order.

„ To conclude my Discourse, I will onely say this One thing  
 „ more touching the qualification of My Master to become Empe-  
 „ rour, rather than any Other King: and that is, *His most Chris-*  
*„ tian Toleration of Liberty of Conscience* in all his Dominions and  
 „ Territories. In France you find severall Protestant-Universities,  
 „ and great numbers of Temples and Churches for the Protestant-  
 „ Worship. Consider but what abundance of French-Ministers are  
 „ sent thence to serve the Protestant-Churches abroad, as under  
 „ that one Government of the *States of the United Provincees*;  
 „ where may be reckoned about Fiftie French Ministers; besides  
 „ what are in *England, Germany and other Countreys*. Our Doctors  
 „ of the *Sorbon* are not such Fools as to maintain or nourish an *In-*  
*„ quisition*; No: Nor will *Our King* refuse the good service of the  
 „ Protestants: On the contrary, He makes them *Presidents of Parlia-*  
*„ ments, and Secretaries of State* in severall Provinces, also *Generals*  
 „ and other *Officers* in his *Armies*, according to their merit.  
 „ Whereas on the other hand, the *House of Austria* will permit no  
 „ man to have preferment in the *Emperours or King of Spains Courts*,  
 „ unless he first become a *Papist*. And if you well weigh the horrid,  
 „ hellish and absolutely unwarrantable practices of the *Spanish In-*  
*„ quisition*, then will you with me confess, that most of the Evils that  
 „ have befallen Christendom, have had their Rise from that Dia-  
 „ bolical Court of *Inquisition*: it makes more *Jews* in *Spain, Portu-*  
*„ gal, and Italy*, than would be; occasioned from the worse than  
 „ Barbarous cruelty practised by the Lords of that *Inquisition*: for,  
 „ say the *Jews*, as you pretend, your *Iesus* was filled with bowels of  
 „ Love and compassion; yet to the contrary, you practise worse  
 „ cruelties than ever did, any *Pagan*. I pray also, what was the  
 „ Cause of the *Netherlanders Revolt*? And what were the designs  
 „ of the *Spanjards* against *Queen Elizabeth* in 88? and from whom!

came that wicked Plot or *Gun-powder-Treason* in *King James* his days ? you will answer me, these were hatch'd in *Spain* by the *Spanish Inquisition*. & if you cast your eye upon our present Age, you will find *Messina* revolting from the same Cause; at least from the ill Government of the *House of Austria*; which if a man take a view of, either in the Kingdom of *Naples*, *Milain*, *Sicily* or in *Spain* itself, he will behold such disorder in the civil Government, that it is a miracle how that Monarchy hath so long continued.

I thought to have said somthing touching *my King* his being lineally descended from *Charlemagne* : But that I shall refer to another opportunity : and so put a Period to what I have to say upon this high and eminent and just Design.

Thus have you the *Frenchmans* Pretences, with the Rhetorick used to beget a belief and approbation of the righteous and necessary grounds of their high Undertakings.

Now please to admit the *Spaniard* to be heard in his sober Replication: and permit me to bring him also upon the Stage, making answer to what with patience hath been born out of the Discourse of the vapouring *Frenchman*.

And thus the *Don* begins : „ I acknowledge that the *Monsieur*, like a true-born *Frenchman*, hath made a large *Bravado* : „ and yet if all were true he hath asserted, I doubt not but to give „ you greater Arguments and Demonstrations to prove that No „ one Familie in *Europe* or in the whole world is of that consider- „ ration as is *my Kings Familie* : yea, I do affirm, that No two „ Kings in Christendom have half the strength in numbers of Sub- „ jects, and quantities of Countreys and Provinces as are under „ the Command of *my Masters Familie*. 'Twere but time vainly „ spent to entertain you with answering the *Monsieur* to that „ wherein he would impose upon us a belief that *his King* is line- „ ally descended from *Charlemagne* : For your Conviction, 'tis „ but onely casting your eye upon that piece of Treason practised „ by a *Iacobin-Frier* on the *House of Valois*, for the bringing in this „ *House of Bourbon*; of which this *Lewis the 14<sup>th</sup>*. is the Third.

But

„ But most apparent it is; that the *House of Austria* is a true  
 „ branch of the *Charlovynans*; as is evident from severall Histor-  
 „ rians. Touching therefore the Right or Title that either the  
 „ *House of Bourbon* or *Austria* hath to the *Imperial Crown*, I shall  
 „ not proceed to discourse, because 'tis so well known where the  
 „ Right is, that this is the first time I ever heard it brought in  
 „ question.

„ But I shall go on to show you why the *Imperial Crown*  
 „ ought to remain in the *House of Austria*.

„ First, Do but consider what vast numbers of Kingdoms,  
 „ Dukedoms and Segniories the *House of Austria* doth possess: and  
 „ by that you may judge how much they exceed in Subjects,  
 „ Riches, and quantity of Land: I will name some of their Posse-  
 „ sions, *viz.* the Kingdoms of *Leon*, *Aragon*, *Catalonia*, *Na-  
 varre*, *Naples*, *Granada*, *Myrcia*, *Valentia*, *Cyfilia*, *Biscaia*,  
 „ *Galicia*, *Algarle*, *Cicilia*, *Hungary*, *Bohemia*, the Dukedoms of  
 „ *Burgondy*, *Milain*, *Austria*; part of the *Netherlands*: and be-  
 „ sides all these, many *Isles in Europe and Africa*, as *Tenerif*, the  
 „ *Canary Islands* &c. Beyond all which, if a view could be taken  
 „ of the large extent of those grand Kingdoms and Provinces,  
 „ Isles and various Territories they have in the *East and West-Ind-  
 dies*, as their Patrimony left them by *St. Peter*, then might you  
 „ truly grant that to be a reality which hath so long been asserted,  
 „ *viz.* That the *Sun always shines on their Dominions*. But further,  
 „ if you shall make a comparison between the Riches, Traffick,  
 „ and Merchandise of the *House of Austria* with that of *France*;  
 „ 'twill be evident to you, the One is but a Pedlers Shop, the  
 „ Other a Rich Magazin of gold, silver, pearls, silks, and spice-  
 „ ries. For a Demonstration hereof, Do but ask the *Englishman*,  
 „ what Kind of Merchandizes the *French* bring over into *England*,  
 „ and what sort of Trumperie and Pedling-Merchants the *French*  
 „ there be: The best Merchandise the *French* furnish other parts  
 „ of the world with, except some salt and wine, is little better  
 „ than Bables and Toys; when at the same time We *Spanjards* send

„ great quantities of Bullion, and rich Silks, fine Wool &c. And  
 „ as for the French Traders in *England*, Do but observe them, and  
 „ you will find them, for the most part, Barbers, Taylors, Per-  
 „ wigg-makers, John Potages, and a sort of Vermin, that onely  
 „ live so long in *England* untill they have swell'd themselfs  
 „ full with the riches of that Land; and then they fly to *France*  
 „ again, and disgorge that Riches on some few acres of Land; by  
 „ which means, after a year or two, starts up, mushrom-like,  
 „ *Mons<sup>r</sup>. Marqué<sup>s</sup> de Chandellé, de bel Gantelet or Marq. de peigne,*  
 „ *Marq. de Valet &c.* and this great grievance bring the French  
 „ to all Nations where e're they come, that they marry some  
 „ *Fille de Chambre*, and they two, dwelling in Chambers, paying  
 „ no custom or duties, make children together; and most com-  
 „ monly the Wives and Brats are left to the Parish to maintain;  
 „ nay, yet further, how is every Prison, yea and Hospital fill'd with  
 „ them in *England*? yea and the gallows too somtimes, witness  
 „ the Frenchman that set *London* on fire, and the *Monsieur* that  
 „ kill'd his *Master*. When to the contrary of this, I dare be bold  
 „ to affirm it, that there are in all *London* scarce two *Spanish* Bar-  
 „ bers, Taylors, or Mechanick Handicrafts-Tradesmen: all  
 „ being great and able Merchants or Bankers.

„ Now whereas the *Frenchman* makes a semblance of Religion,  
 „ and giving freedom to Religious people; Let All men judge  
 „ of this, who do but lend their ears to the most deplorable stories  
 „ of their cruelties in destroying so many hundred Towns and  
 „ thousands of poor People in the *Palatinate*, in *Alsacia*, *Twee-*  
 „ *brugge* and the circumjacent parts; such dreadfull burnings, rov-  
 „ ings, plunderings and tyranny exercised on an innocent peo-  
 „ ple hath not been paralleld in a whole age, as they have now  
 „ committed within these 2. last Months of *January* and *February*.  
 „ And whereas the *Monsieur* saith, that if his *Master* were Empe-  
 „ rour, he would thrust the *Grand Seigneur* out at a farther distance  
 „ from *Italy* and *Hungary*, I believe't is no hard matter to prove  
 „ that it is *He* that hath invited him into *Christendom* to make  
 „ diver-

„ diversion, whilst he practiseth his designs upon *the Emperour*.  
 „ and 't is most certain, that it was the French alone that widened  
 „ the breach in *Germany* between the *Emperour* and *the Princes* in  
 „ the last Civil War. *The Frenchman* is not ashamed to boast of  
 „ his Kings Actions about *A vignon*; also telling us, that there  
 „ is no use for the *Pope*, sith the *Sorbon-Doctors* can do all as well:  
 „ but as to the *French Kings* manner of treating the *Pope* at *A vignon*, and his rendring the *Pope* useles, let every true Catholick  
 „ judge how religiously those things look.

„ For a Conclusion, I shall onely put *the Monsieur* to a change  
 „ of his countenance, and, it may be, of his ambition also, when  
 „ I shall advertise him of the great disappointment of his *Grand*  
 „ *Masters* expectations touching his hopes of intestin troubles in  
 „ *Spain*; the thoughts whereof do now wholly vanish, upon the  
 „ peaceable entrance of that Illustrious Prince *Don John* into *Ma-*  
 „ *drid*, and the right understanding between *the King* my *Master*  
 „ and him; together with his present capacity of relieving *Cata-*  
 „ *lonia*, and, perhaps, giving a visit to the King of France, where  
 „ he will scarce be welcome: From him doubtless, I mean,  
 „ that honest & heroick *Spaniard*, *Don John*, all men of sober  
 „ judgements expect both good and great things, such as may be-  
 „ come the grandour of his person, and integrity of his princi-  
 „ ples.

Thus have you an account of the Essays made by the Champions of these aspiring Princes: Much more of this Kind of polemical Discourse are we in this place, bordering on the seat of War, daily acquainted with: *Onely by pride* (saith *Solomon*) *comes contention*: The unsatiable desire of being great and having much, makes all this strife, from whence the misery of mankind is grievously aggravated; and in particular this part of the world involvd in a present labyrinth of trouble, and in danger of a future desolation: the State whereof I shall endeavour with all modesty, candor and indifferency to present to your view.

Herein, *Sr*, I shall give you the trouble of a short Relation of  
 B 3 the

the Source and Rise of these Affairs, and so descend to these last times, which you will find to abound with all the abominable and horrid evils that can enter into the mind of Man to imagin: Which account of things, as a single-hearted Hollander, I shall so manage, that all passion, Satyricall expressions, provocations, or offensive reflections shall be forborn; and all due observance manifested to all Sovereign Potentates, Princes and Powers whatsoever.

In the Beginning of the Fifth Age(or Century) in the midst of the divisions of *Rome*, they spoke of the *French*, as of a barbarous people, perfidious, inconstant and full of lies; <sup>Mer-  
ray &  
French</sup> they were inclined to warrs, having much wit and understanding, which gave them occasion, courage and means <sup>Author  
in his  
Abbrev.</sup> to overthrow and ruin the *Roman Empire in the West*: and upon those ruins they meant, under their *Clouis*, to lay the foundation of a Kingdom that should be formidable to it's Neighbours, and that should have drawn along with it the rest of *Europe*, under it's dominion: Which might haply <sup>Mer-  
ray pag.  
20.</sup> have been, if it had not immediately been weakened by the dividing of it among his Children and Successours; Who by their continuall debates so hindred, that it did not fall under One Monarchy; and by that means conserved the Ballance so necessary for the rest of their Neighbours. But this good time endur'd not longer than unto *Charlemagne*, who, having reunited those so formidable forces of the *French*, and subdued the best part of *Europe*, was proclaimed *Emperour* by the *Pope of Rome*; and became the *Arbiter of Christendom*. But, by a secret fatalitie, he fell into the same fault, which *Clouis* had committed <sup>Mer-  
ray pag.  
257.</sup> with his Children, and distributed this mighty *Empire* among his Children; so making an Eclyps in the *Universal Monarchy*; which the *French* at this day endeavour with so much zeal to retrieve. And indeed the Posterity of *Charle Magne* have vexed themselvs exceedingly about the reestablishing this *grand Empire*; though hitherto in vain; they at the last growing sluggish, gave over, or however slacked much in that design: <sup>which</sup>

which gave occasion that One of the *Third Race* came to be set upon the Throne ; who reigns at present , more vigilant and more active than the Other of those Branches do , who yet have never lost their view and prospect of the *Monarchy of Clouis* and of *Charle Magne* their Predecessours . But upon the advancement of *Capes* to the Crown , the Grandees of the Kingdom thought that He ought to suffer all things from them , because they had put on his head the Diadem which he wore ; whereupon they divided the Kingdom among them , and parted it into severall pieces ; which have not been reunited without great pains and trouble : and you must grant it me , that none at all , saving *Lewis the Eleventh* , was capable of effecting so great a work as the reuniting together of what was squandred abroad in so many Provinces ; and so to bring his Kingdom into a State , not onely to defend himself against his Neighbours , but also to Rule over them ; and to bring again to his Successours the appetite and envy of reestablishing the *Monarchy of Charle Magne* ; And this might have had a good issue by King *Louis the XIV* , if he had known how to pursue his victorie , in stead of standing amased , at *Seist* near *Utrecht* in the year 1672 .

The high attempts of *Louis the XI* , put the following *Kings of France* again upon the oppression of their people , and abasing the greatest Personages under them : And , the truth is , since the *English*

Mezeray were constrained to abandon the *Kingdom of France* ,  
Pag. 713. more by their own quarrels and divisions than by the  
valour of the *French* , their Kingdom hath received a wonderfull  
encrease and access , by the reunion of their best Provinces ; and  
their Monarchs have recalled to mind their ancient idea's and ap-  
prehensions of the *Universal Monarchy* , and from time to time  
have ruined their Neighbours by warrs grounded upon their old  
pretences .

And to take a little nearer inspection into this affair , you must know , that when *Louis the XI* did in the beginning of his Reign take notice , that his onely Brother *Charles* was allied with the *Dukes of Burgondy* and *Britain* against him , for the publick welfare

of the *Kingdom* He carried smoothly toward them and made semblance as if he would give them contentment, but with intention to separatethem, and to ruin them one after another; which did succeed very well to his mind, to the great damage of the rest of *Christendom*, and particularly to the destruction of the *Netherlands*; sith that, since that time, the *French* have wasted *Italy* and *Germany*, and nigh ruined the *Netherlands* &c. with the loss of an innumerable multitude of people and goods. And, in case the Civil Warrs for Religion had not prevented and diverted this fiery, impetuous, restless warlick humour, Poor *Christendom* had seen itself at that very hour a Slave of *France*. Thence you have, *s<sup>r</sup>*, the generall source of the misery of *Europe*, *viz.* the vast and unlimited ambition of that *Sanguin* Nation, their gall and unquiet humour, ready to eat out and devout it's own bowels; if those ancient pretences be not laid aside: of which there is little hope, whilst the *French* renew them every moment; still wearying the world with those chimical images of their *Louis* and *Charlemagne*, which had sufficiently galled the former ages; although they have been abolished by Solemn Treaties (yet become unsuiftfull) and by Præscription almost time out of mind. Lo the plague of Mankind, and the true cause of all the calamities whereunder *Europe* at present groaneth.

But to come to particulars: I shall not speak here, but onely *en passant*, of the old Warrs of the *Gauls* against the *Romans*: nor tell how they brought to desolation their *Great Cite*, as also a good part of *Italie*; nor how they ravaged in *Asia*, and there established the *Kingdom of Gallo-Gracia*, as an evidence, as it seemeth, that this Climate always produced men given to high enterprizes above others, and to trouble the tranquillity of the world: For that this doth not so concern the *French*, who have subdued the *Gauls*; *Meze-ray A- bre v. Chronolog. p. 3.* and, by consequence; are therefore the more to be feared; as likewise for their cruelty and natural furie, which they have inherited from their Ancestours the *Scythians*; of whom their Authors make them Successours.

Only

*Guicciardin lib. 1. della sua Histo-ria.* Only please to consult the *Historians of Florence*: by whom you may see how they have troubled and confounded the State of *Italy*, till almost the end of the fourteenth Century.

Though true it is also, that among the *Italians* were several domestick and internall Warrs: yet they were without any cruelty, without consuming by fire, without the shedding of much humane bloud: as *Machiavel*, writing of a great battel that endured four hours together between many thousands of men (I shall take heed of calling them *Soldiers*) of the *Duke of Milains and of the Florentins*, saith, that there was killed but one single man, who fell off from his horse, and was trampled under the feet of the Horsmen.

*Machiavel lib. 5. del. Histo. p. 175. & 216.* *Et in tanta rossa, & in si lunga zutta, che durò dalle XX. alle XXIV. hore: non vi morì altri, che un huomo; il quale non diferite; ò d'altro virusto colpo: ma caduto da cavallo, e calpesto espirò, con tanta sicurezza all' hora gli huomini combattevano; &c.*

In so much, that at that time in *Italie* properly there was neither peace nor war.

*Perche pace non si può affermare ebe sia; dove spesso i principiati con l'armi l'uno el' altro s'affaltano, guerre ancora non si possono chiamare; &c.*

But after the *French* were entred there, and renewed their old pretences upon the Realms of *Naples* and *Cicilie* under *Charles the VIII*, this fair Elogie is given them by *Guicciardin*, that they filled the Countrey all over with fire and bloud: as he pathetically writes:

*Guicciardin An- teur Florentin. Et che condussero seco in Italia; i semi d'innumerabili affectione aux lamità; e d'horribilissimi accidenti, & variatione di quasi François; com- me la pluspart tutte le cose: perche dalla passata sua non solo hebbero principes de ceux de sa pio mutationi di stato, soversione di regni; e desolazioni son primier li- di paesi; &c. vre de l'Hist.*

And the same Authour remarketh the cause and originall of all those miseries and evils, by his following words; which I shall

here insert, because they are worthy your reflection upon them :

*Morì finalmente Renato; e non havendo figliuoli maschi, fece herede in tutti gli stati, eragioni sue, Carlo figliuolo del Fratello, il quale morendo poco dipoi senza figliuoli, lasciò per testamento la sua heredità à Luigi XI. Re di Francia; a cui non solo ricadde; come à supremo Signore il Ducato d'Angiò; nel quale perche è membro della Corona; non succedono le femine; ma con tutto: che'l Duca di Lorena esserisse appartenersi a se la successione de gli stati, entrò in possessione della Provenza; e poteva per vizore del Testamento medesimo pretendere essergli applicate le ragioni: Che gli Angioini havevano sopra il Reame di Napoli; le quali essendo per la sua morte, continuare in Carlo VIII. suo figliuolo, incomincio Ferdinando Re di Napoli ad avere potentissimo auversario, e si presento grandissima opportunità a chiunque d'offenderlo desiderava: perche il Regno di Francia era in quel tempo piu Florido d'huomini: di gloria d'arme, d'arme, di potentia, di ricchezze: e d'autorità intra gli altri regni: che forse doppo Carlo Magno fuisse mai stato essendosi ampliato novellamente, in ciascuna di quelle tre parti; nelle quali appresso gli antichi si divideva tutta la Gallia. Concosia che non piu che quaranta anni à questo tempo sotto Carlo VII. Re, per molte vittorie ottenute con gravissimi pericoli, chiamato bene auventurato, si fussero ridotto sotto quel imperio, la Normandia, e'l Ducato di Ghienna; provincie possedute prima dagli Inglesi: e ne gli ultimi anni di Luigi XI. la Conie a di Provenza, il Ducato di Borgogna, e quasi tutta la Picardia, dipoi aggiunto per nuovo matrimonio alla potentia di Carlo VIII. il Ducato di Bretagna; ne mancava nel animo di Carlo inclinazione à cercer d'acquistare con l'arme il regno di Napoli, come giustamente appartenente a se, cominciata per un certo instinto quasi naturale insino da pueritia; e nutrita da' conforti d'alcuni, che gli erano molto accetti, i quali empiedolo di pensieri vani, gli proponevano, questa essere occasione d'avanzare la gloria de' Suoi predecessori: perche acquistato il Reame di Napoli, gli sarebbe agevole, vincere l'Imperio de Turchi.*

Shortly after the said Historian followeth his discourse in this manner :

*Incommincò in tale disposizione de gli animi, & intale confusione delle cose tanto inclinate a nuove perturbationi, l'Anno 1494, anno infelicissimo all'Italia, & in verita anno primo de gli anni miserabili perche aperse la porta a innumerabili, & horribili calamità delle quali si può dire che per diversi accidenti, habbia dipoi participato una gran parte del mondo, & par les prodiges qui presageoient cette guerre; d'incredibile timore si riempivano i popoli; spaventati già per la Fama della potentia de Francesi; &c.*

And indeed King Charles the VIII. made himself Master of the Kingdom of Naples in few days, by the terrore of his Arms; (doing it by assault, burning the Mount St. John, passing with his sword through all that was to be found: an unheard of Case in those times) and he soon lost it again afterwards by his negligence, and too little care he had to preserve it.

But We must not now so flatter ourselvs: *Their present Monarch know's no less how to conserve than to conquer Provinces. If we do but observe the marches of this Imperious Nation on the borders of Germany, there we shall see Alsacia turned out of the hands of the Almains: and joyned to their Crown; a Duke of Lorrain driven out of his own Land; 3. Bishops, viz. Thoul, Metz and Verdun dismember'd from the Empire; which He Keeps in continuall divisions and agitations by his Emissaries, by his intrigues and by his corruptions.*

*Lastly, Descending to the Netherlands, the Principall Subject of our Discourse: It is to be considered, in what manner the French have endeavoured to bring them into that miserable Condition wherein we see them at this day; and to discover the true cause of their maladies: to this end We must have recourse to the reign of Louis the XI. King of France, who by his subtily and deceits ruined Charles the Stout Duke of Burgondy, and Lord of all the Netherlands; stirring him up new Enemies from time to time, who at last gathered together before Nancy; where he lost his life, and his people all their welfare, which since that time they never could recover. Some years before, this Prince, who posseid Bourgondy;*

all the *Netherlands*, and (the *Citie Paris* being then a Frontier of the Kingdom of *France*) almost whole *Picardy*, did bridle, by his intelligence and courage, the ambition of this King so full of artifices: but, because, for easing of his people, he was not provided with a good and well ordered Militia, he came to be surprised by the Other; who, by his horrible exactions of taxes and laying impositions upon his people, was always accompanied and encompassed with a great quantity of armed men; the which gave him means and therewith desire to extend his limits in despite of his Neighbours: but the matter was well enough balanced till the death of *Charles the Stout*: whose death caused to his people an abyss of calamities and miseries: seeing *Louis the XI.* at that time kept to himself *Bourgondia*, whole *Picardy*, *Arras*, and many other considerable places: He likewise always artifised the *English*, after the death of the said *Duke*, to the end they should

not hinder him in the conquests of those Lands. Yet by the marriage of *Mary of Bourgondy* Heyres of the *Netherlands* with *Maximilian of Austria*, as also by the loss of the battel of *Guinegate*, the *French* could not execute their design, to bring under their power the *Seventeen Provinces*; which yet they might very easily have joyned to their Crown, by a marriage of their *Dauphine* with the said *Damsel Mary of Bourgondy*: if the good God had not blinded *Louis de XI.* and taken away his senses: and hereby was the way to the *Universal Monarchy* wonderfully made

*The same Author.*  
12. *Chap.*  
of the 5.  
*Book.*

plain & clear for *Philip the Fair* Son of *Maximilian*, and for *Charles the Fifth*: Then again the *Netherlanders* took a little breath; howbeit They were often incommodated by the invasions of the *French*: who nevertheless found themselvs not in posture to undertake any thing against their Neighbours, because of the Parties and leagues which soon after were formed in the bosom of that Kingdom: And yet, however hindred by so many cruel civil warrs, the *French* quickly recovered again; and retook very much vigour by the courage and wise conduct of *Henry the Great*:

The

The *Netherlands* having been in that intervall always rent by a perpetuall warr in the bowells of their Provinces : but all that was not capable of ruining them : there was need of the engins of a *Cardinal de Richelieu* for an absolute abasing of them , and reestablishing the *French* in their ancient splendour , and making them (after the reduction of *Rochel* , and suppressing thofe of the *Reformed Religion*) to follow on in the footsteps of their glorious Ancestours , taking the way of *Charlemagne* unto the Monarchy : to which end they must throw down or debase the greatness of the *House of Austria* , now prodigiously encreased , more by Marriages than by Arms ; which fell out exceeding well : He leaving behind him a worthy Successor the *Cardinal Mazarin* for to achieve the prosecution of his Designs ; who would not have missed to emport the *Netherlands* ; in case it had not then been prevented by the *Queen of France Anna d' Austria* , who did oblige him to make a marriage between the King *Louis XIV.* and the *Infanta of Spain* ; and at the same time to conclude the peace of the *Pirenees* ; by which means the rest of the then staggering *Netherlands* was preservered : then were affairs in a tolerable state ; whereof the good Subjects wished a long continuance and confirmation , having begun to tast the sweetness of the Peace : When yet in the year 1667 , without any denunciation , or reasonable cause of war , upon a weak cause , and pretext of a Custom of Devolution of *Fief* upon the Children of the First Marriage , practised in *Brabant* and other places in particular houses , (which had never been confirmed by the Sovereign , nor used in Families of Princes) the *French* , as an effect of their enterprizing humour , invested the best Cities of those Lands ; the rest whereof cannot maintain themselvs otherwise than by miracles : But this deserves a more particular Examination.

The King *Louis XIV.* having conceived an unchangeable design of reaching hard for the Monarchy of the greatest part of *Europe* , or , at leſt , to limit his Kingdom by the *Alpes* , the *Pirenees* , the *Mediterranean Sea* , the *Ocean* and the *Rhine* ; judging that the *Nether-*

therlands, now in a state of welfare and comlinesse, might serve for a wall of planks, for the further propagating of his Conquests, Did, in the Moneth of *May* in the year 1667. in time of a full peace, without any subject of rupture with *Spain*, and notwithstanding good and positive assurances of good correspondence and friendship given by his Ambassador at *Madrid*, march with an Army of 50000 men for to take possession (so as they could, and not make war) of the *Netherlands*, devolved by the death of *Philip the IV. King of Spain* upon the *Queen his Wife*: and therewith he approached *Charleroy*, which the *Spanjards* had abandoned, because it was not in a State of defence: But the *French* having in a short time brought it into a good posture, soon after took, without great resistance, the Towns of *Tournay*, *Douay*, *Orchier*, *Lifle*, *Courtray*, *Audenard*, *Aeth*, *Bergen St. Winox*, and *Turnes*, that is to say, all the best Cities of *Flanders*, situated in the bosom of the Land, which had very little or no Garrisons in them, because of the assurance they had of a Peace, which had been so solemnly sworn, and confirmed by a Marriage; which yet, in stead of serving as a band, as was hoped, for the nearer uniting of the two *Crowns*, was by the *French* made use of for a pretext of war: and by this means they were soon Masters of three of the principall Rivers of the Land, *viz.* of the *Liz*, the *Escarpe*, and the *Scheld*; thereby breaking their *Commerce* and *Communication* with the remaining Towns, to their great decay of trade. And really the *Spanjards* being obliged by the *Treaty of Aken* to yield over to the *French* all that they took from them in the *Netherlands*, they became very unable to preserve the rest: For, as is evident, when we will pass the *Center* within *Bruxels*, we cannot pass the circumference of the *Frontier* for it's defence, otherwise than by three or four semidiameters which are very narrow, One whereof goeth by *Mons* (or *Bergen*) in *Hainaut*, (or *Henegow*) *S. Gillain* and *Valencienne* to *Cambray*; the Second by *Namour* (or *Namen*) to *Luxemburgh*; the Third by *Gent* and *Ypre* to *S. Omer*; the Last by *Weert* and *Roermonde* a village of *Gelderland*: all which pas-

passages are incommodated by the French, who, by their continual concourses in those parts, do very lightly hinder the Convoys which should be brought into the Cities of the Frontiers. And who can, without tears in his eyes, look upon this Countrey that is so miserably subiected to a cruel Contribution, (being not a fingers breadth of Land without vexation) the value whereof amounteth unto prodigious summs: the Citie of *Mastricht* alone bringing up for their share four Millions: by which 'tis very easy to comprehend, That they pursue their Warrs at the charge of their Enemies; which doubtles they therefore desire to continue, (notwithstanding all their shows and expressions they make for Peace) and so will they make the poor people desperate, who wish for nothing else but a good Peace and an end of the warrs, or a Master that is powerfull to defend them: and that they may be driven to that extremity I very much apprehend, and fear we shall shortly see effected; this having already been shewed in diverse renounters, particularly at *Aire*, (or *Arien*) where the Burgers did constrain the Garrison which consisted of 400 men to give it over to the French.

It is very true that the *Netherlands* are in a poor condition, unprovided of all things; and that the *King of Spain* hath no more there than 6000 horse to bring into the field, wherein their whole army consisteth, and 5000 Spanish foot to keep their Cittadels and places whereof they are most jealous; besides about 15000 *Walloons* and *Germans* for the ordinary Garrisons of the Towns; which number is yet too little, and the Soldiers not well enough treated to be able to keep their places: in so much that the *Hollanders* are obliged to leave there more than ten thousand men for their defence. My hairs rise upon my head, when I consider the danger wherein we are; and that the welfare of the Land depends onely upon the taking or surprizing of one or two Cities; the loss whereof would undoubtedly cause the renditon of the rest: for if the French take *Bergen in Henegow*, (where the Burgers are malcontent and murmure against the disorders of the Spanish) *Valencien* and *Cambray* are cut off, and without succour; having already much to do,

being blocked up by parties of the *French Army*, by *Bouchain*, and by a considerable Corps of the *French* that lodge in *Cambresis*: And in case we loose *Namur*, then the *Citie* and *Land* of *Luxemburgh* will immediately follow, for want of relief: so that one or two of those Columns being taken out of the way, the rest of the Building will fall of themselvs, and applaud the triumph of the Overcomer. For the Great Cities, as *Bruges*, *Gent*, *Bruxels*, and *Antwerp*, either because of their conformity in Religion with the *Most Christian King*, or that they are in hopes (not without grounds) thereby to see the reflourishing of the *Commerce*, and to have their River *Scheid* opened, or that they apprehend that their *Soveraign* is too far off, or hath not strength enough to guard them from the insultings of their *Enemies* who consume them to their bones, will very lightly embrace the *French yoke*: for the multitude of people that are there chuse such Party as they will; which shall certainly be the strongest, and that is *the French*. There is no man now who discerns not the manifest danger of the *whole Netherlands*, which are so drained out by these warrs, and among whom you renounter many people that have not the greatest affections for the *Prince of Orange*, and others, for reasons too long here to deduce, enclining to the *French*: Who then shall after this doubt, but that this *French Monarch* shall at last attain his aim, *viz.* first to extend his limits to *the Alpes*, to *the Pirenées*, and to *the Rhine*, and then to think further?

*The French* declare openly enough that they will not suffer *the Spanish* within the *Netherlands*, who during the minority of their *King*, or in their *Civil Warrs*, may give any trouble to this great and mighty Kingdom. Men must reform this errour which till now hath prevailed in their Opinions, That the *Prince of Orange*, joyning his troops with those of *Spain*, should be able to save the *Netherlands*: the contrarie having been experienced; for notwithstanding what efforts he used, the *French* this last year took *Condé*, *Bouchain* and *Aire*; being three places which mightily incommodate the Other; the last whereof had more than 200000 livres

of contribution of France. Further is to be consider'd the advantages they have over us by their Magazins, which make them subsist in the Camp with their numerous Cavalry, when their Enemies cannot shew themselvs for want of forrage: by which means they have the opportunity to make siege by some detachement, opposing the body of their Army (which is stronger in Cavalry than the Army of the Allies) in some advantagious place against those who would bring succour to the place they besiege; and so they play sure play, not hazarding their reputation and glory. The King came in at the beginning of the Spring (when there was no grass on the field to feed the horses) with an Army of 20000 horse and 30000 foot, leaving a few men within the Cittadels, now almost impregnable, which he had caused to be built, (after the peace made at Aken) at Lille, Tournay, Arras, Dunkerk, and other places; and drawing out all the Garrisons which make up 30000 men, he joyned them to the troops of the Kings house, who were 16000 men strong: whereas on the contrary, the Prince of Orange was necessitated to weaken his Army, and to send or leave more than ten thousand men in the greatest Cities (for fear they should render themselvs) then must he have an artillerie well furnished, regulated and governed, for to open the Campaign to some conquests, the Germans being still constrained to stay in their winter-quarters, uncapable to act or cause any diversion, through defect of forrage in the Netherlands. Then after an enterprize don upon any place, as is ordinary, His Majestie returns back, *re bene gesta*, and without any hazard of a battel; then makes detachements from Flanders to Germany, and so illudeth the great designs of the Allies.

We conclude then by all this, that the irregular ambition of the French, their unsatiable avarice, their old pretences upon *quasi* all the Provinces of Europe, their will and inclination to robbery, their vain, inconstant and unquiet humour not permitting their Neighbours to live in rest, are the true causes of all the calamities and miseries of Christendom, and especially of the Netherlands;

whom, it seems God had placed, as in his anger, in the midst of Europe, to the end they might be the beam of the Ballance.

Now in this case, It is necessary to have recourse to other Remedies, under God, than those which to this time have been used, for the healing us of this *French Disease*, that cometh now to the Noble parts of the Body of the *Seventeen Provinces*, making them rotten, and fall off by pieces, being in danger of a total destruction: Better means know we not than the application of *English Mercury* to make the Enemies salivate and evacuate what they have with so great greedines swallowed in. For whither else shall we betake ourselvs for refuge, but to the *English*, for reestablishing the counterpois so necessary for the publick rest and felicity of *Christendom*, and especially of the *Netherlands*? for whose Conservation *England* is so greatly in it's interest concerned, having also received of God the advantage of a situation so excellent, as to be fit to keep the ballance of *Europe*, and be an Arbiter of all things therein, shewing in effect that it hath reason on all occasions to say, *Cui adhaereo, ille praest, whom I incline to shall prevail.*

And truly it is a glory for the *King of England*, that, whilst Other people are very unable to help, or are menaced, and so in an apprehension of the terrible forces of the *King of France*, or are overcome by his presents, against their own interest, or else still in a deep lethargy, He alone can praescribe limits to the, almost endless, ambition of the *French*, to bring them to reason, and put them in mind that they with their Monarchy, now so idolized, the designs whereof they believe to be infallible, are yet no other than men, and subject to change of fortune; which would ensue, in case the *English* should take the party of the *Allies*.

And what help can there be expected if we cast our eyes on other places for relief? Let's begin with the *Alpes*; there we have an object of astonishment, in observing the Low-spiritedness of the *Switser*s, that mercenary people, obliged by reason of State and formal Treaties to the guerrantie of the *Dukedom of Milain* and the *French County*; which yet they suffered, not long since, to be taken,

taken, in their sight. If we come to *Turin*, there we shall find a *Duke de Savoy* under the government of a *French Mother*, and depending on intelligences from the *French Court*, and in some sort bridled by the *Fort of Pignarol*, which is the Key of his Land. Not far from thence shall we find those of *Geneva* irresolved, trembling for fear, prepared to suffer insultings, and to make all sorts of courteous addresses for preserving their quiet; the conquest of whom would but be as the fruit of one *Campagne*, or, it may be, of three months time. If we enter further into *Italie*, there we shall find *Princes* weak and timid, who will not oppose themselvs against the progresses of the victorious arms of *France*, unless in the greatest extremitie. The *Republick of Venice*, in former times called the *Buckler of Italie*, being newly delivered from a grievous war against the *Turks*, shall not engage, or but very slowly, and putting off so long as they can, in a new war against *France*, which might be worse to them than the former. I shall not here mention the *Pope*, nor the Great *Duke of Tuscany*, who shall never undertake any thing of themselvs, unleis what properly relates to the reading of their *Breviarie*; or, at best, they may be good to contrive a *Treaty*, or to fortifie one that is already made by Others. If we pass into *Poland* and *Portugal*, we shall stand admiring, as we might not long since have done, in *Savoy* and *Bavaria*, to see the *Mistresses* to be *French Wives*, who possells and govern their Husbands, kept by the *French*, and driven by the same spirit of ambition to endeavour that *Kings* greatness, and who perswade themselvs, that they have done a singular favour to the *Allies*, that they have till this time forborn to give them some notable diversion; which we have reason to apprehend for the future.

Info much that there is none but his *Majestie of Great Britain*, that is capable and worthy to sustain the quality and heavy (though glorious) burden of *Arbiter* and *Peacemaker* of the troubled world: for we shall here leave out, as unworthy to be *Mediators*, the *Swedes*, those mercenary Souls and boutefeus of *Germany*, those infortunate Braves, who in stead of procuring the peace

and rest of the *Empire*, whereof they were Considerable Members, have disturbed the tranquility thereof, by their unjust invasion into the Lands of an *Elector*, then employed on the Frontiers for the common defence of his Countrey; having sold themselvs to *France*, for finishing the combustion of the rest of *Christendom*, There is therefore no other that can sustain the rank and do the function of a true *Esculapius* to heal our sickneses, by Others incurable, but the *King of England*, and that by prescribing to the *French* such conditions of peace as shall reduce them from beyond the River *the Somme*, to keep within their old limits, as in the time of *Louis XI.* in the beginning of his Reign. And in case they refuse it, there is none but the *King of England* that can make them swallow Ellebore to purge their brains of those ill humours and fumes which corrupt them, and blot out of their corrupted imaginations the vast idea's and Chimæra's of their *Charlemagne*; and so to calm all the troubles and tempests of *Europe*, whereof they are the Cause.

His Majesty shall but follow therein the footsteps of his glorious Ancestors, who passed beyond the Seas with numerous Armies to reliev the *Netherlands*, and not suffer them to fall into the hands of the *French*, believing that whole *England* should be in *Phil. de Comines chap. 1. l. 4. &c. 8.* great danger of destruction, in case so many Sovereignties were joyned with that Crown: This matter should *chap. of l. 3.* be wonderfully taken to heart: Witness *Philip de Comines* of his memo- nes. And there is no doubt but the *English* people would liberally contribute to that undertaking, after their old custom, yea, were it to carry an Army into *France*: as *King Edward* did, requiring *King Louis XI.* to render him the Kingdom of *France*, that was his own, that he might redress the State of the Religion and the Nobles, and restore to the people their old Liberties, and take *comines chap. 5. of lib. 4.* off the great charge and vexation under which they groaned. I wonder very much, that the like design was not formed two years ago, when the Inhabitants of *Chienne* and *Bretagne* stretched out their arms to *England*, for to tast, under the conduct of the *Duke of York* or *Monmouth* the sweetness of an

*English Government*, which they wish for unto this day.

Do the *English* want Motives to excite them hereunto? I beseech you, what shall, after such *French Conquests*, become of the *English Commerce*? is not that sufficiently ruined, or lamentably decayed already? The *Hamburgh-trade* is, upon the matter, quite lost, as to the *English manufactures*, which in times of peace were sold into *Germany*, *Pomerania*, and other adjacent Countreys: and so also is the *Dort-trade* lost, by which the *Spanish Netherlands*, and the parts of *Germany*, which ly that way, were wont to be supplyed with *English Cloath*; by reason whereof those *English Manufactures*, as *Cloath*, *Serges*, *Bayes*, &c. which formerly gave 50. per piece, are now sold for 35. or 37. at the highest; which proves so great an evil to *England*, that those *Cloathiers*, which formerly employed 400 persons at work, have not now work for 20 persons; which hath caused the price of *Wool* to fall 40. per Cent cheaper than heretofore: and the people are forced to steal it out of *England*, and sell it to the *French*, who with the same make *Serges* and other *Stuffs*, to the dammage and utter loss of the *English trade*: The complaints of this kind are every where heard; as also of that palpable cause of this decay in *Commerce*, from the taking, roving, plundering, confiscating of so many *English ships* by the *French* within a short time; the Value whereof with their *Loadings* is inestimable, and thereupon the provocations and grievances unsufferable.

But above all, the *English* ought to cast their eyes upon, and provide a remedy for the great strength and encrease of the *French Ships*, which trouble all *Navigation* at present; and what shall they do, when they shall come to dispose (*Deus avertat omen*, God forbid it) of the *Navall Forces* of *Holland*, and of their riches in the *Indies*? And more particularly is to be considered what shall become of the *English Traflick* in the *Mediterranean Sea*: There is no Merchant that know's not how absolutely necessary the *English Trade* is with *Spain*, as also with *Smyrna*, and all those parts to which we must pass through those *Mid-land Seas*: but how can

that be maintaind, if the *French* should make a Conquest of *Ci-cilia*, *Naples* and *Sardinia*? Let but inspection be made into their proceedings at *Messina*; where, besides what they have gained at Land, they have now at Sea 25. Galleys, and 50. great vessels, men of war, and a great number of others less, but very commodious for transport of Soldiers and provisions; they being absolute Masters and Dominators in those Seas: whereto gives no small advantage the Commodity of their Ports of *Marseilles* and *Toulon*, which are not far distant; from whence succours and provisions may be sent to refresh them in *Messina* in less than eight days time: and, by consequence, they may soon be Masters of those Islands, and afterwards of the Kingdom of *Napels*: for the Faction of *Anjou* (that is, of *France*) is not all extinguished there: and then can the *French*, when they will, ruin the navigation of the *Northern* In-hab-tants, who have there neither Ports nor Galleys; which are two things very necessary in those Seas, because of the great Calms which in Summer time are often met with there. These Considerations, with many more, call aloud to the *English* Nation to awaken, and help themselfs and us.

*For a Conclusion*: I propose two particular ways for the further engaing of *England* to come into our help:

*F<sup>r</sup>st*, that a true and firm Union may be cemented between *England* and *Holland*, the Expedient of the so much discoursed of *Marriage* between Our *Prince of Orange* and *Madam Maria*, daughter of the *Duke of York* ought to be endeavoured that it may speedily be effected: *His Highness* ought to sollicite it with ardour and passion: after the Example of *Charles the Stout*, *Duke of Bourgondy*, and *Lord of the Netherlands*, who married the Sister of *King Edward of the House of York*, for to fortifie himself against *King Louis XI.*

*Phil. de Co-*  
*munes Chap.*  
*XI. lib. 3. of*  
*his Memor.* (who had got advantage against him so much by surprizes and deceits in time of peace, like as our *Frenchmen* did in the year 1667.) for otherwise he would never have don it, for the great love he bore to the *House of Lancaster* whereof he was a near Relation by his Mothers side.

If therefore so great a Prince, that followed rather the incitements of his anger, than of reason, sacrificed the interest of his House to the publick welfare: what shall not Our Illustrious Prince, who is so wise and Politique, do to attain that design or end so necessarie for the saving of the *Netherlands*? unto the preservation whereof that of *England* is inseparably annexed. For in case the French should now become Masters of the *Spanish Netherlands*, will it not follow then that *Holland* and the other *United Provinces* shall be constrained at last to take upon them the same yoke? and suppose the *Hollanders* could maintain themselvs with some assistance from *England* and *Germany*, yet would they not be always the continual heater and seat of war; but rather at last submit themselvs to the great and mighty *King of France*, in hopes to enjoy, without fear of any Enemy, a perfect tranquility and long continuing Rest. A present hearty Conjunction between *England* and *Us* therefore is the present needfull, to which the foresaid Marriage seems to be a proper medium: for the accomplishing whereof the blessing of the Almighty is earnestly implored, that he, who straitneth and enlargeth Kings, Kingsdoms, and Commonwealths, that limits the Grandees of the Earth, putting a hook in their nostrils, that maketh warrs to cease on the earth, and setteth up the oppressed and the lowly, will, if it may stand with his good pleasure, make this marriage of our great *Prince* with that Illustrious *Princess Mary* to become successfull for those righteous and happy ends: that not onely by this great knot the hearts of those two Grand personages may be more united; but also that the Two Nations may concur and conspire with more harmonie, courage, and activitie, to procure a good peace for the rest and tranquilitie of *Christendom*, and particularly of *England* and the *Netherlands*; a peace, I mean, not coloured over, nor plaistered, and such as the French (when the *Allies* shall be disarmed and separated) shall presently break, and so again surprize the *Netherlands*; who indeed ought to be always in posture of defence; and who (when the ballance shall be kept equall in *Europe*) ought

ought to serve for a bank and barr against the inundations and attempts of this unquiet and imperious Nation.

Secondly, As to a sure *Asylum*, under our Almighty Protector, We would address to the Renowned Parliament of *England*, now beginning their *Session*: Upon them are at present the eyes of all the Considerable and Considering Parties of *Europe*: Ill men are jealous and conceive fears concerning them; Good men hope for great advantages from their grave and wise Councils: The loud clamours of the innumerable injuries don by the *French* to the honest Subjects of *England* in their *Commerce*, more ways than one, to their inestimable damage, we know, have reached their ears: and the sad state of these Lands, with all the present evils and future dangers I have mention'd in *this Letter* cannot be unknown to them: the Sympathy of their affections with our miseries, and the identity of their Cause with Ours, will, we hope, effect so much, that Their *Wisdoms* will propose, vote, direct, order, and conclude of such ways and means whereby the sober Inhabitants, and particularly the Trading Party of *England*, may with *Us* be extricated out of this *Labyrinth* in which we are bewilder'd; that at last we may arrive at such a state of just freedom and safety, as may excite us, with them, to render to the God of wonders hearty praise and thanksgiving for his wonderfull deliverances and preservations: for which you have the concurrent *Vote* of

Sr,

*Yours &c.*